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and runs through Gargzdai and Kryzkalne, crosses the Berlin-Moscow Highway and continues on to Kaunas and Vilnius. It is called "Zemaičiu plentas" or Highway of Zemaitija. It is paved with stone and concrete and averages about 30 feet in width. It is an all-season highway.

5. In 1939 new highways were started from Svetoji on the Baltic to Darbenai, Kartena, Kuliai, and Rietavas and also from Palanga to Kretinga and Kuliai. Construction was stopped during World War II, [redacted] the Soviets had completed these highways.
6. The balance of the roads in Zemaitija between the cities, villages, and farms are dirt and gravel and average between 15 and 20 feet in width. They are affected by wet weather in the spring and by the first of May become very dusty.

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Rivers

7. The Nemunas River in Zemaitija is navigable up to the city of Kaunas from the Kursiu Sea. Other rivers in Zemaitija are the Venta, Bartuva, Dubysa, Jura, Akmene, and the Minijs. These average between 25 to 35 feet in width and vary in depth up to 10 feet. Many of these rivers dry up in certain spots during the summer months.

Bridges

8. A very important bridge in Zemaitija is the one which crosses the Nemunas River between the cities of Tilze and Pagegiai. It is of steel construction and is about 1/3 of a mile in length. The Berlin-Tilze-Joniskis-Moscow Highway crosses over this bridge. Near the city of Rusne is another steel bridge over the Nemunas River. The Rusnes-Silutes Highway crosses the Nemunas River over this bridge. It, too, is about 1/3 of a mile in length. About 3/4 of a mile down the river from Rusne is a bridge made of steel and concrete. It is about 1/2 of a mile in length. It is located in the valley below Rusne.

Climate

9. On the Baltic coast the Zemaitija area is subject to fairly strong sea winds. During the months of March and April the seacoast area is colder than inland and foggy conditions are common. However, the fog does not last more than a few hours each day. Spring starts in April during which month the last snows disappear and the roads dry up. There is some rain during April but it is not excessive. The month of May is usually mild and dry and all roads are dry and in good condition. Spring temperatures vary between 59° and 70° F. The summer season is from 21 June to 21 September. There is a little rain and the temperature varies between 77° and 86° F. Nights are fairly cool. By autumn the temperature ranges between 41° and 59° F. There is quite a bit of rain and secondary roads become muddy, but usable. November temperatures often drop to zero and some snow starts falling. The winter season lasts from December to the end of March. The heaviest snows occur during December, January and February, the average depth being about three feet. The temperature drops to 20° below zero. Most people travel by horse-drawn sled during winter although some trucks and small vehicles could pass on the road with comparative ease.

Habits and Characteristics

10. People of the Zemaitija area are referred to as Zemaičiai or Zemaitis. They differ in action, characteristics, and language from other Lithuanians. [redacted] They are distrustful of strangers but once they get to know the stranger they become very friendly and generous. They are very loyal to their friends. In their language the Zemaičiai use a Lithuanian "slang". The people living in

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the area of Raseiniai, Skaudvile, Taurage, Vainutis, Naumiensis and Svinkas pronounce their words in a short, straight fashion which has a hard sound. For example, "duona" (bread) becomes "dūna"; "sviestas" (butter) becomes "svystas"; "pienas" (milk) becomes "pynas". Around the cities of Kretinga, Palanga, Kartena, Skuodas, Seda, Plunge, Mazeikiai, Telsiai, Rietavas, and Gargzdai (as well as cities in this particular section) pronounce their words in a sing-song manner. For example, they pronounce "duona" as "douna"; "sviestas" as "sveistas" and "pienas" as "peinas".

11. The male population of Zemaitija wear home-spun woollen and flax trousers, shirts, and coats, or fur jackets in winter; a peaked woollen cap, and wood shoes which are sometimes covered with leather or leather boots. Women wear the same type of home-made woollen skirts and blouses in winter and their footwear resembles that of the men. A white or colored scarf is worn over the head. In the summer months light-weight clothing is worn by both men and women. It is usually made at home. No headgear is worn in the summer by young men or women. The city people wear factory made clothes and shoes. Most farm people have at least one factory made suit or dress to wear on Sundays and holidays. The Russian inhabitants in Lithuania up to 1941 wore trousers, shirts, skirts and blouses of cotton material winter and summer. They were usually a light green color. Both men and women wore felt boots in winter whereas in summer they went barefoot.
12. The people are very religious Catholics and rarely miss church on Sunday. On Sunday evenings during Advent and Lent the farm people gather together and sing religious songs at various homes after which they are given refreshments. When a person dies a wake is held at the home and religious songs are sung. A wagonload of singers precedes the funeral procession to the cemetery.
12. On Saturday and Sunday evenings the young men and women gather together at a farm house and have a dance and song fest. Music consists of a violin and harmonica. The older people talk, smoke, and drink. The older men always smoke pipes while the younger men roll their own cigarettes. Lithuanians are all possessed of a good sense of humor and sing a great deal.

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